

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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4. Three sections were subordinate to each of the three rifle platoons, which in turn fell under the jurisdiction of company headquarters. The regular complement at headquarters numbered two officers, one warrant officer, one sergeant, four junior sergeants, and four enlisted men.  five additional enlisted men

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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who had completed a month-and-a-half training course at Mauer Oehling about 20 August 1952 were attached temporarily to headquarters in a training status. A junior sergeant had been detached from the third rifle platoon to train them.

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The company's commanding officer was a captain. His second-in-command, the political officer, was a lieutenant. One of the junior sergeants dealt with pay and documentation, and another with medical matters. An officer commanded each platoon. His second-in-command (pomkomvzvod) was a junior sergeant. The first platoon had, in all, four junior sergeants and twelve enlisted men; the second, three and nine respectively, and the third, three and eleven. Senior Lieutenant LAPKIN had just been relieved of command of the third platoon by another lieutenant, recently arrived from the USSR. Two enlisted men from the first platoon, and three from the third, were in the hospital at St. Poelten (N 48-10, E 15-37).

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Aside from the platoons, there were a medium machine gun section and a signal detachment. The former was commanded by a sergeant, who had under him two junior sergeants and a private. The three enlisted men in the signal detachment manned the telephone exchange in company headquarters. It had a line to Mitterbach, where there were telephones in the guardhouse and one per post. Company headquarters also had connections with battalion, regimental, and division headquarters.

A junior sergeant normally commanded each section, which varied in strength from five to eight men. Each section of [ ] platoon had four privates. At full strength, the sections consisted of eleven soldiers, of whom two operated the light machine gun, four carried carbines, and five carried machine carbines. Three of the men armed with carbines were detailed as carriers (podnoschiki) to procure ammunition from an ammunition pit in the company area. The number one (navodchik -- gun layer) on the light machine gun team carried the light machine gun and a pistol; the number two (pulemetchik -- machine gun carrier) was armed with a carbine and two carriers containing six magazines, of which three were filled to their capacity of 47 rounds. The two magazines for a machine carbine contained 71 rounds apiece; approximately 142 more were carried in the pack.

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The only medium machine gun in the company was held by the headquarters medium machine gun section; it was a Degtyarev. The nine light machine guns were also Degtyarevs; [ ] they were the 1941 model. The one anti-tank rifle, a Simonov, was held in Mitterbach. It was believed that there were about 30 machine carbines to the company; [ ] 15 in Mitterbach. There were only six carbines in Mitterbach;

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[ ] Officers always carried pistols, of which there were nine in Mitterbach. Grenades and ammunition were stored in the Mitterbach company storehouse. In case of emergency, 18 light machine gun magazines were kept filled with 47 rounds each; the rest of the ammunition was stored in boxes. Two ZIS trucks, driven by two soldiers from the second platoon, provided the company transportation.

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For protection against gas, every man was provided with a respirator, [ ] the old model, a head and body covering (shlem nakidka), a type of bedding (podstilka), and leggings (chulki), the latter three of which were made of thick brown or gray paper. The leggings, pulled over the boot, had double-thick soles and were somewhat thinner on the leg. The head and body covering was used both on the move and as the troops lay on "contaminated" ground. Three times a month, for a period of three hours, anti-gas training was conducted; the troops would maneuver tactically -- usually on the attack -- while wearing their respirators. Grenade practice only occurred once a year, with every man throwing one live grenade. Other training included digging with the entrenching tool for 40-minute periods (sometimes while wearing the anti-gas respirator), and weapon and tactical attack training on a platoon basis. Firing practice was conducted once or twice a week; the maximum ranges, in effect were 600 meters for the light machine gun, 400 meters for the carbine, and 200 meters for the machine carbine.

The main function of [ ] platoon lay in guard duty; the two platoons in Mitterbach manned the stations on alternate days. When not on guard duty, a platoon would engage

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in training. The posts, manned on a 24-hour schedule, were the relay station where one junior sergeant and two privates checked documents of civilians crossing the demarcation line, post number one on the main Mariazell (N 47-46, E 15-19) - Mitterbach road, and post number two on the parallel Erlauf See (N 47-46, E 15-18) - Mitterbach road. [ ] only one aircraft spotting post, which was at Wienerbruck and manned by two men from the platoon there. Troops on guard at the demarcation line bore only machine carbines. Their magazines had 35 rounds apiece; the second was fastened to the belt. No packs were worn.

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11. [ ] training, necessarily abbreviated by [ ] military function which prevented [ ] from going through the normal Austrian training cycle, took place from 0900 to 1400 hours every other day. Reveille sounded at 0600 and was followed by a half-hour of physical training. After breakfast at 0800, "political information" in the form of the reading of selected newspapers was presented to the troops. The articles read usually concerned the threat of Western aggression.
12. By and large, the morale of the company was low. The troops could afford little relaxation; surprise night alarms and tactical problems reduced their sleep, and even Sunday was occupied by cross-country runs and other fairly strenuous forms of physical activity. The diet was mainly a kind of gruel (kasha), soup, bread, and tea. The daily meat allowance was 25 grams. Occasionally the sugar ration would not appear, and once or twice a month the bread ran out and was not immediately replaced, [ ] the quality of the rations had deteriorated "since the government had stopped taking food from the satellites". The body of troop opinion held that non-salable items from USSR markets were set aside for army consumption.
13. The troops were denied beer and spirits. Once a month after receiving their pay (40 Austrian shillings for a private), they would circumvent that ruling by detailing some Austrian in the vicinity to buy them beer or schnapps, which they would consume in the posts along the demarcation line. These posts were seldom visited by officers or NCOs. Pay was distributed on the 20th of each month. Soldiers were issued two packs of an inferior variety of tobacco (makhorka) per week.
14. Leave was a rarity among the enlisted men; very occasionally would a man who had shown his proficiency in target practice be awarded it. Otherwise it was not granted except for humane reasons. [ ] the officers were regularly given two months' leave plus travel time to go home each year.
15. Although the duty tour for Soviet Army conscripts was three years, they often were compelled to serve six or nine months more. Tank crews usually served about four years. [ ] men who had reached the fourth class were commonly detailed to the Navy, a five-year enlistment. [ ] elements of all classes from 1928 to 1932 were serving [ ] which contained no regular army men, there were seven from the 1928 class, 41 from the 1929 class, nine from the 1930 class, and five from the 1932 class. [ ] The five men attached to company headquarters for training were members of the 1932 class who had arrived in Austria in June 1952. They stated that there were some members of the 1931 class in the same draft.
16. Normally, a class would be demobilized and returned to the USSR in October, although the men were given no advance notice of their impending departure. Men from the 1928 and 1929 classes anticipated demobilization in the autumn of 1952, when the 1933 class was expected to arrive.

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1. [ ] Comment. This camp is probably the Kaisersteinbruch Transit Camp near Bruck (N 47-24, E 15-16).

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2. [ ] Comment. The platoon strengths listed were exclusive of the five men in the hospital.

[ ] the listing of the second platoon is minus one sergeant on temporary duty at headquarters. This sergeant is included in the numerical tabulation of company strength (five officers, 63 enlisted men).

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3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] mixed the functions of number one and number two. From the Russian word, it would seem probable that number two carried the light machine gun. 25X1

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